The Marker Lamp

Volume 58 Number 1 Winter 2012

Why is this train layout hanging in a tree? See the story on page 9.

June 6-10, 2012

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The Marker Lamp

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The Lone Star Region of The
National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 58, Number 1

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region** of **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

It's a great time to be a model railroader. A tremendous amount of railroad locomotives, cars, equipment, buildings, electronics, scenery material, and whatever else you might want (or can afford) is readily available. One of the best places to find out about all of this and enjoy some great time with model railroaders will be at the Gulf Coast Limited LSR Convention in Houston from June 6 to June 10, 2012.

Take a look at the articles in this *The Marker Lamp* describing layout tours, prototype tours, and CLINICS galore to show you how to build, wire, scenic, and operate your layout. For inspiration, drop by the contest room to see the fantastic creations by some of the most talented individuals. The silent auction may have that item you have not been able to find and at a good price. For the Non-Rails, there will be very interesting clinics and trips to delightful places. The convention website is available as a link from the LSR website (lonestarregion.com). You may register and pay online….it couldn't be easier.

Always one of the tremendous highlights to a Houston convention is an evening with the family and friends at Zube Park. What a thrill it is to actually ride the 7 ½ in. "big" live steam and diesel locomotives and enjoy a good barbeque dinner. Bob Barnett is the convention chairman, and he has put together a very reasonably priced registration and hotel package. Rail and Non-Rail fares are $85.00 until May 1st. We had the Mid-Year LSR Board of Directors meeting at the Hilton Houston Southwest Hotel this past weekend. You will have an enjoyable stay at this hotel at a fantastic $70.00 rate.

Speaking of the Board meeting, we had a lively meeting with lots of comments and ideas. One of the important points stressed in the meeting was that the LSR conventions are the primary regional activity of the LSR and the primary source of income for the Region. Just like the "Buy America" movement now under way, it is so very important that you support these conventions with your attendance. We have given to Bob Barnett and his Houston team the challenge of 250 registrations. The LSR currently had almost 1,100 members in Texas and Louisiana with over 275 in the Houston area alone. At the local train shows, like the one this weekend in Dallas, we will be telling the thousands of visitors there about the Houston convention as one of the super reasons for joining the NMRA and the LSR. Join us in this big push to get everyone to Houston for the Gulf Coast Limited extravaganza.

Walter J. Zahn from Mesquite, Texas is donating **another $1,000** to the LSR for the Walter Zahn Memorial Contest Award Fund. This is in memory of Walter's father, who was a transit enthusiast. He previously contributed $1,000 in February 2010. This money is allocated at $200 each year over a 5 year period for the purchase of contest awards. It has enabled us tremendously to present impressive awards. Please express your thanks to Walter at 3309 Point East Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150 or call him at 972-270-0702. He is very involved in the exchange of railroad passes. THANK YOU WALTER ! ! !

View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

Where did I put that box of track?

Standing in my future railroad room the day after the pour. Now all I need are the walls and roof.

Times have been a little hectic around the Lind household to say the least. As I reported in the last newsletter, Laurie has inherited her sister's home and our plan was to move into it. As we looked at the remodeling cost to get the house like she wanted and the negative of an upstairs train room, we are getting older, things took a turn. As we visited my nephew in Houston about some matters in my sister's estate, he bluntly asked Laurie, "Is this a house you would buy?" Laurie didn't say much, but on our drive back from Houston she was pretty quite and then said maybe we should look at some houses. This started a chain of events and we each listed what we wanted in a home (and train room). As we looked, we found a home south of Navasota that we both liked and met most of the items on our list, except for one on mine, a train room. Since the home sits on over two acres it was decided that we could build my train room and workshop all on one level. So in December we closed on the house and have been slowly working on it to make it our home. As I write this today, they are pouring the foundation for my building, a 30' x 70' building with a 10' x 15' entry/railroad work shop. This will give me a 30' x 30' wood shop and a 30' x 40' train room, plus the model train work area.

I have been drawing plans with help from friends, so the future looks bright for the Tall Pine Lumber Company. The old railroad will be torn down probably around the end of February and we will be moving to our new home sometime in February. My new address is listed in the *Marker Lamp*.

As you can see from the Ballot attached I made the decision not to run again for Director at Large. With the move I will now be living in Division 8 and since we cannot have two at large from the same division Tracy and I talked and I decided to let him have a run again, and I will be busy building a railroad. I also now have two houses to get fixed up and on the market to sell, so no time to relax.

The 2012 Gulf Coast Limited

Bob Barnett Chairman

We are expecting you!

The ***Gulf Coast Limited*** is just five months away, and we're planning four days packed with modeling and prototype activities just for you.

· **Registrar Ed Dibble** and **Webmaster Jim Lemmond** have the registration form posted at the convention web site. It is included in this issue, so sign up today!!

· **Clinics Chair Tracy Mitchell** has assembled an outstanding group of clinics with a mix of modeling information and skills and prototype data emphasizing the Houston railroad scene and local industries. The clinician names and topics will be posted on the website.

· **Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag** has organized several clinics and an outing that includes two Houston tour sites as well as lunch at the downtown Spaghetti Warehouse. A full description is shown in this issue and will be posted on the website.

· Of course we will have the famous **LSR Model Contest** for both models and photographs. The contest room set up and staffing will be handled by **Ray Byer and Don Formanek.** The contest will follow NMRA contest rules with oversight by LSR Contest Chairman, Duane Richardson.

· **Layout Super Tour Chair Dave Shafer** has lined up a day long bus tour of several well-known Houston area railroads. The tour will be organized into three pairs of layouts with each pair in the same general area so you spend more time looking at railroads and less looking at Houston roads and traffic. The planned layouts are listed in a separate article in this issue and will be posted on the website.

· For those that want to see more Houston area railroads (and are not afraid of a little driving) **Layout Tour Chair Craig Brantley** is organizing a two day driving tour. Craig organized the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's fall layout tour this year. So, he has full knowledge of the location and description of the area railroads. We have several well- known and highly scenicked railroads as well as numerous operations oriented railroads. Houston has a large number of narrow gauge layouts with layouts in Gn3, On3, Sn3 and HOn3. Come see a preview of the 2015 Narrow Gauge Convention to be held in Houston.

· **Prototype Tour Chair Kelly Russell** has arranged tours of two Houston area rail sites: The Houston METRO Maintenance and Operations facility and The Port Terminal Railroad's Yard and Maintenance facility. The METRO tour will include a ride to downtown and back on the Main Street line as well as a planned ride on the Hermann Park Railroad. These tours are fully described elsewhere in this issue and information and times will be posted on the website.

· **Convention Co-Chair Robert Ashcraft** is also handling the Operating Sessions. Op sessions are planned for Wednesday evening and Friday evening. Robert has a stable of layouts available for operations. The layouts, dates and times will be posted and are subject to adjustment to accommodate the number of people who are interested in operating.

· **Peter Bryan** is coordinating the "Evening in the Park", our Thursday evening trip to Zube Park home of the Houston Area Live Steamers. There will be a Barbeque dinner, rides on the HALS passenger trains, plus a planned demonstration of live steam locomotives. HALS celebrated its 20th Anniversary in November with a four day live steam meet. A full description of the track and the history of the club were included in the Winter *Marker Lamp* and will be posted on the website.

· As always we will have the **LSR Silent Auction**. A chance to pick up some goodies you didn't get the first time around, and get rid of some you did but wish you had not!! **Auction Chair George Bohn** and the **Beaumont area modelers** will head up this year's silent auction.

· *Some other folks whose jobs are vital to the success of the Gulf Coast Limited but not linked to a particular railroad- fun activity:*

· **Division 8 Treasurer Tom Marsh** is also serving as the Gulf Coast Limited treasurer.

· **David Currey** is serving a transportation chair and has lined up the bus company and van rental for the convention.

· **Bob Sabol** is heading up the Raffle and Company Store.

· **Phil Stewart** has agreed to compose and send out the email reminders during the next few months – *so you do not forget the Convention.*

· And finally 2008 LSR Convention Chairman and **MMR, Loren Neufeld** is attempting to make sure we do not leave out any of the good stuff for an enjoyable convention.

The Gulf Coast Limited –

See you There!

Number _____ (Internal Use Only)

LONE STAR REGION—NMRA
GULF COAST LIMITED CONVENTION
HOUSTON, TX
JUNE 6 — 10, 2012

PayPal Registration deadline is Friday, June 1, 2011

REGISTRATION PAGE 1

Prime Registrant		
First Name:	Last Name:	
City:	State:	Zip:
NMRA Membership No.	NMRA Expiration Date: mm/ dd/yyyy/	
Home Region		
E-mail address		

PRIME REGISTRANT to fill out A, B, or C **NOTE: All adult registration fees increase by $5 after May 1**

A. PRIME REGISTRANT Named above and a current NMRA Member
Registration prior to Tuesday, May 1, 2012 is $85. Beginning Wednesday May 2, 2012 Registration is $90.
Name for Badge_____

B. NON-RAIL or SPOUSE of PRIME REGISTRANT. Registration prior to Tuesday, May 1 2012 is $85. Beginning Wednesday, May 2, 2012 Registration is $90.
Name for Badge_____

C Non-member PRIME REGISTRANT (See next page for amount to include for NMRA membership for one year Registration prior to Tuesday, May 1, 2010 is $85. Beginning Wednesday, May 2 Registration is $90.
Name for badge_____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hilton Houston Southwest
6780 Southwest Freeway,
Houston, Texas 77074-2102
Tel: 1-713-977-7911 Fax: 1-713-977-6310

The convention rate is $70.00 per night for1 King, or 2 Regular, or 1 or 2 Queen occupancy. The rate is good through Wednesday May 24, 2012. Make your reservations directly by phone with the Hilton Houston Southwest. When booking ask for the Lone Star Region-NMRA Convention Rate. The rates apply for the 2 days before and two days after the convention (June 5—12) if booked by May 24.

REGULAR REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- Admission to three days of clinics on every phase of model railroading
- Access to the Contest Room to view and photograph the best model building in the Lone Star Region
- Access to the Silent Auction and the chance to bid on many railroad items.
- Admission to the Saturday Night banquet featuring Guest Speaker
- Admission to the Sunday morning breakfast and annual Lone Star Region business meeting
- Select Extra Fare Prototype Tours and operating sessions.
- Admission to area home layouts and rail fanning opportunities in and around Houston
- Ride Live Steam or Diesel Trains and enjoy Barbecue Dinner at Zube Park (Extra Fare)
- For more information contact Ed Dibble, registrar via e-mail at lsrconvention@yahoo.com

Number _____ (Internal Use Only) **REGISTRATION PAGE 2**

Lone Star 2012 Convention Fee Schedule

Print this form after filling in your quantities, pressing tab key between each field.

REGULAR REGISTRATION	COST	QTY	Total
Postmarked on or before Tuesday, May 1st, 2012	$85		$
Postmarked after Tuesday, May 1st, 2012	$90		$
NON-RAIL/SPOUSE REGISTRATION			
Postmarked on or before Tuesday, May 1st, 2012	$85		$
Postmarked after Tuesday, May 1st, 2012	$90		$
OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS			
Minors (6-16 includes Banquet & Breakfast)	$50		$
Minors under 6 free (No Meals)	$0		$0
EXTRA FARE			
Thursday Barbecue Dinner & Live Steam Train Rides at Zube Park	$10		$
Prototype Tour #1	$25		$
Prototype Tour #2	$25		$
Super Layout Tour (includes lunch)	$30		$
Extra Banquet Tickets	$35		$
Extra Breakfast Tickets	$17		$
Day Pass (Please circle if Thur. Fri. Sat. Does not include meals)	$30		$
Operating Session Wednesday night (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Friday night (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Convention Shirt **Pre-order only** — Deadline for ordering is May 1, Please circle size S, M, L, XL, XXL	$27		$
NON-RAIL ACTIVIES			
Luncheon Outing	$25		$
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS, ETC			
One Year NMRA Membership for non-NMRA members (Includes NMRA magazine)	$66		$
One Year NMRA Membership for non NMRA Members (without NMRA magazine	$44		$
Student Membership	$32		
NMRA Rail Pass — 6 Month Membership for Non-NMRA members	$9.95		$
Facility Usage if not staying at the hotel (see below)	$25		$
GRAND TOTAL			$

Please check your Banquet meal choice Chicken Basil ☐ London Broil ☐
Spouse/Non-rail Banquet meal choice Chicken Basil ☐ London Broil ☐

Note: The $25 Facilities Usage Charge (primary registration only) applies if you do not stay in your own home or at the convention hotel. The hotel's cost for meeting rooms, banquets, and other facilities is offset by the attendees (local as well as out-of-towners) purchasing the guaranteed number of hotel room nights. If the guaranteed number is not met the cost of using the facilities increases the convention cost. Thus, we encourage everyone to stay at the convention hotel.

Pay your registration either by check or PayPal ™
Make checks payable to: Texas Gulf Coast Division LSR-NMRA or pay with **PayPal™**
You do not need a PayPal account to pay your registration with a credit card through PayPal. See separate sheet for PayPal instructions.

Your Name_____ Your Check Number:_____
Mail completed form with payment to:
Ed Dibble, Registrar
2619 Parana:
Houston, TX 77080-3822
Phone: 713-690-7544 e-mail: lsrconvention@yahoo.com

Clinics for the 2012 Gulf Coast Limited Convention

Tracy Mitchell, MMR Clinic Chair

When Convention Chair Bob Barnett asked me to chair the clinics instead of helping out in the contest room, I nearly panicked. How do I amass a clinic schedule that comes close to those that Gil did when he was clinic chair for all those great Houston conventions we have grown accostom too?

Here is who I came up with so far. As they say, there will be more to come. You can keep track of the clinicians and schedule by checking the web page for the Gulf Coast Limited from time to time. I hope to see you all there.

Greg Johnson – TNO Lockwood Subdivision; ESPEE Rabbit
Chuck Lind, MMR – Sawmill Operations
Tracy Mitchell, MMR – Rolling Stock and Locomotive Tune Up for Texas Children's Hospital
David Currey – Daytime and nighttime Hand Signals on the Railroads
Steve Sandifer MMR – Livestock and Stock Cars
Jack Merkal – String Diagrams; Industries on the LSSF RR
Paul Cesak – Hand lay Turnouts using the Fast Track Jig
Craig Brantley – Trees made with the McKenzie Brothers Jig
Ray Byer – Locomotive Tune up
Jim Hinds –LED's in Model Railroading; Locomotive Lighting Using Surface Mount LED's
Steve Barkley – Scratchbuilding Rolling Stock with Styrene
Blake Bogs – How to make a Power point presentation
Duane Richardson, MMR – Creating a scene on a layout Emphasis on How to Build a Snow Scene
Rod Fredericks – Electrical Stuff Associated with Model Railroading
Al Partlow - Houston & Texas Central and TNO Sunbearm Passenger Train
Joe Dale Morris - TNO Slide show

LADIES ONLY!

Petticoat Junction

2012 Gulf Coast Limited NON-RAILS

Don't miss out…The schedule is jam-packed.

We'll begin **Wednesday evening** with a Hospitality Room to enjoy getting reacquainted with old friends.

Activities:

Learn to make Greeting cards, Homes for feathered friends and Yarn leis
Hear all about Birds
Learn what plants are edible
Enjoy a novelty show of Vintage Hats

After a morning of hotel activities, why not carpool **Thursday** noontime to the Houston Premium Outlets for lunch and shopping just a couple of exits prior to meeting up with your spouse for BBQ and a train ride at Zube Park…home of the Houston Area Live Steamers.

Friday will be an unforgettable day…We'll begin with a visit to the National Museum of Funeral History which boasts the largest educational center on funeral heritage in the **world** and the **only** Vatican authorized Papal exhibit which includes an authentic replica of the pope mobile and other artifacts. It even has **as** a miniature replica of Lincoln's complete funeral train and other artifacts from former presidents and royalty even some fantasy coffins. **This museum has gotten rave revues.** (Strange as it sounds…you have to see it to believe it) One of our members has been there several times and said it is "wonderful" and full of history

Then we'll enjoy a very affordable Dutch treat lunch at the famed Old Spaghetti Warehouse. (most entrees are just over $7)

Then it's on to the Cockrell Butterfly Center…a most enjoyable part of the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

An evening hands-on clinic will complete the day.

Saturday will include more clinics/speakers before the evening Banquet.

Sunday morning will be the Breakfast.

2012 Super Tour

Dave Shafer Super Tour Chair

Relax and let us take you to some of the Houston Area's best layouts. This bus tour will be from 8:00AM to approximately 4:30PM, with lunch and snacks included. Featured layouts for 2012 are the following:

Gordon Bliss' Santa Fe – All the Way, which is a large double deck layout built for operations from Chicago to L.A. It has 464 feet of mainline, 2 helixes, Kansas City Union Station, and Argentine Yard. It has been featured in magazines.

Chuck Clark's Southern Pacific – Valentine Route, from El Paso to Houston, featuring Texas locations such as Flatonia, El Paso, and the Houston Ship Channel.

Eddie Carroll & John Weiss' Glenbrook Valley RR - with upper level narrow gauge RGS in Southwest Colorado, including Vance Junction, Ophir, and spectacular trestles. The lower level is a freelanced Eastern US short line. The layout recently has expanded by 2000 square feet!

Harry Daniel's new Santa Fe – Pecos River Division, which is on 3 levels in the desert Southwest (Texas panhandle & New Mexico mesa country). The layout features cattle ranching, grain storage & shipping, oil, & mining.

Bill Wright's Green Bay Southern RR - which models the Green Bay and Western in Wisconsin from the car ferry on Lake Michigan and ore loading. Bill used the prototype yard plan for his model of Norwood Yard in Green Bay.

Gil Freitag's Stony Creek & Western - with standard and narrow gauge in Colorado high country. Mountain scenery, hand-laid track, great bridges, and scratch-built structures are featured. A Houston classic!

LSR 2012 Layout Tours

Craig Brantley Chair

Houston is blessed with many fine layouts and we will present the best for the LSR Convention. The layout tour is shaping up to be the best ever!

We will have something for everyone. There will be layouts in N, HO, S, O, and G scale… plus narrow gauge: HOn3, Sn3, On3, Gn3. There will be long time favorites like Gil Freitag, Don Bozeman and Cliff Cheeseman plus some new additions that will become future favorites. Some new favorites will be Eddie Carroll (3000+ sq. ft. double deck HO/HOn3), Harry

Daniel (N Santa Fe), Jim Lemmond (HO logging/mining), Barry Bogs (G/Gn3), Craig Raymond (Sn3 Rio Grande Southern), Gordon Bliss (N Santa Fe) and many more.

A list of layouts will be posted on the convention website in February and Google Maps will be available in April so you can plan your visit. Photos of the layouts will be posted too. Join us at the 2012 LSR Convention in Houston… you won't be disappointed!

Prototype Tours

Kelly Russell Prototype Chair

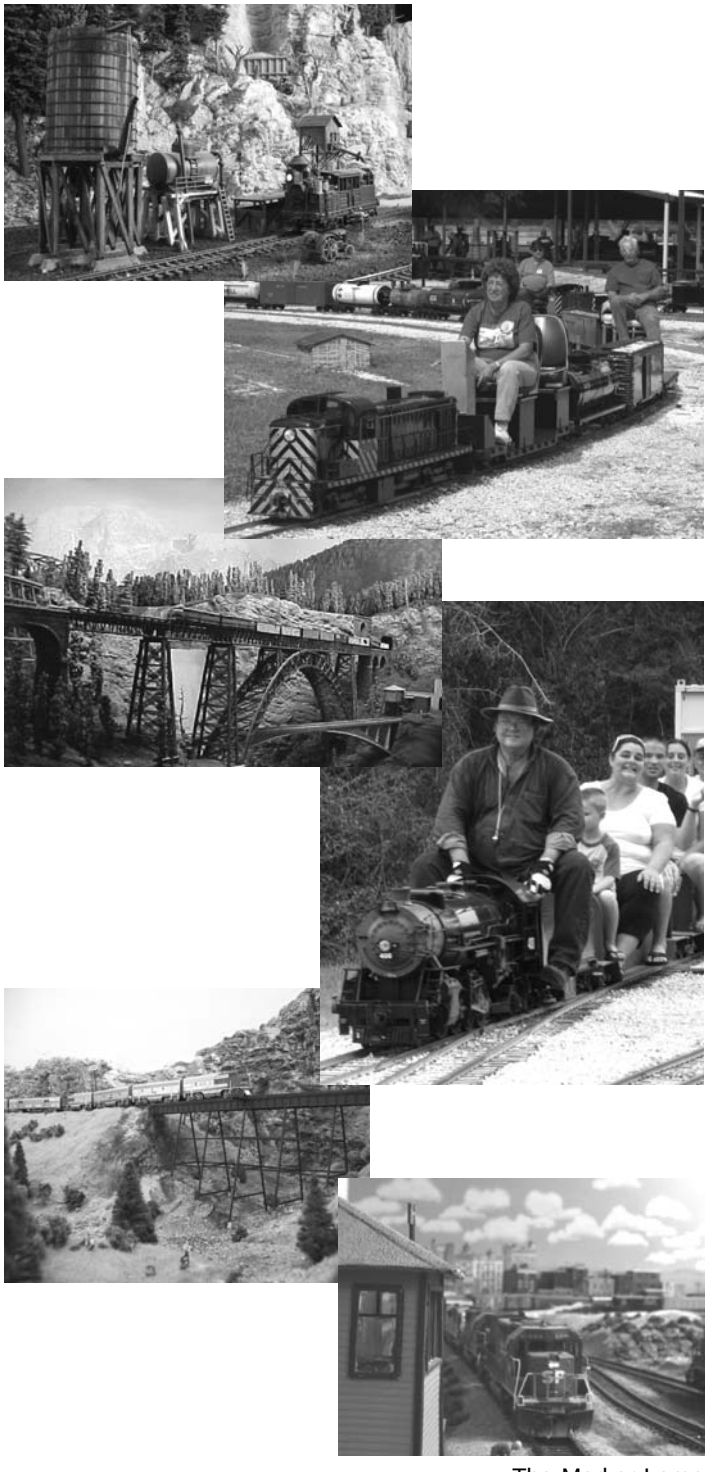
2012 Convention will present 2 prototype tour opportunities.

Thursday will be an exciting trip to the PTRA North Yard where we will tour the Locomotive shop and the railcar RIP track. These 2 are located near the switching yard where will will have the opportunity to watch some of the switching action in their yard. Due to the nature of the railroad facility security there are several limitations to this tour which you will need to be aware of. First a requirement by the railroad we are going to be required to wear long pants and hard soled shoes – ***NO SHORTS and NO TENNIS SHOES*** – steel toes are prefrerred!. Second, we wll be limited on the size of our group… bad news and good news here… we will be limited to only 12 people on the tour… the good news is that we will be running 2 sections of this tour. The Morning tour will depart the hotel at 8am and will return by noon or so… the Afternoon tour will depart at 1:00 or so… and instead of returning to the hotel, will go directly to Zube Park for the evening's festivities with the Live Steam group which you can read more about. After dinner and train watching/riding, the van will return people to the hotel.

Friday we will be repeating the great tour of the Houston MetroRail Rail Operations Center, but this year, with a twist. After the group gets to see the MetroRail repair/maintenance shop, a visit through the simulator and other areas of the ROC, and a watch a short presentation on the future plans for MetroRail; we will board a MetroRail train at the station located near the ROC and travel all the way to the other end of the line for lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Then we will reboard the train and head back towards Herman Park where we are trying to coordinate a ride on the Herman Park train (near the zoo). We will either reboard the bus at the park or get back on MetroRail train back to our starting point and reboard the bus which will return us back to the hotel. The cost of the MetroRail train ticket is included with your tour. Lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse includes salad, entrée, and a drink for only $8 (not included in the tour price)

These tours are only $25 for each person – and do not include lunch. Please indicate on your registration that you prefer the morning or afternoon tour to the PRTA. Also, ***PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE CLOTHING REQIREMENTS – THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.***

These will sell out quickly – be sure to get your reservations soon.



THE T & P RETURNS TO JEFFERSON, TEXAS

By Weldon Nash, Jr.
LSR member and Jefferson Historical Society and Museum Board member

139 years after the original Texas and Pacific Railway Company completed tracks to Jefferson, the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout will be relocated from Fort Worth to Jefferson. Many of you may be familiar with the renowned HO gauge model railroad layout built by the late R.D. Moses and his friend Jack Luck over a period of 30 years. The layout, which depicts the Texas & Pacific Railway in West Texas in the 1950s, was housed in a 14 x 48 foot building in Moses' backyard in Fort Worth, Texas. This superb model railroad was published in the May 2002 Model Railroader magazine. Even before this publication, R.D. Moses' model railroad was known both locally and nationally as one of the best in the hobby. The craftsmanship in the scenery is masterful, accurately depicting the wide-open spaces of West Texas with buttes, outcroppings, mesquite trees, mine villages, oil wells, cow towns and ranches. The main line track on the layout has 193 feet of rail that curves around mountains and emerges from valleys. Trains roll by, disappear from view and then reappear from behind scenic objects.

Prior to his passing in 2009, R.D. Moses established and endowed a Family Trust to ensure that his T & P Railway would continue in existence. He stipulated that the model railroad layout be donated to a worthy, non-profit organization that would continue to maintain and operate the layout for years to come. After several months of consideration of proposals from New York to Tucson to LA, the Moses Family Trust chose Jefferson as the new home for the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout.

Jefferson's Cypress Bayou Model Train Club was instrumental in getting the model railroad layout to Jefferson. They brought it to the attention of the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum and suggested that if the Museum were to acquire the layout, then the Club would commit to operating and maintaining the layout. In July 2011, the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum accepted the donation of the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad.

The first task after signing the Contract with the Moses Family Trust was to move the model railroad layout. The family was selling the Moses house and the model railroad needed to be moved prior to the closing of the sale. What a challenge that was! It was quite a feat to dismantle, crate and move a 14 x 48 foot layout without damaging the beautiful scenery. A company that specializes in moving large museum art was engaged to perform the move. Their proposal of several thousand dollars included crating the layout into two sections, moving the layout from the building, temporarily storing the layout and delivering the layout to Jefferson. This first part of the move occurred in September 2011. The event made the newspaper and TV news in Fort Worth. The layout is currently in storage in Fort Worth awaiting the completion of a building in Jefferson to house it.

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum and the Cypress Bayou Model Train Club conducted a fundraiser for the model railroad in August 2011 at the Historic Jefferson Railway Depot. The activities included a reception, train ride, BBQ dinner and a silent auction. Despite the terrible August heat, over 200 people attended the event. The citizens of Jefferson "stepped up to the plate" and, through cash donations and a silent auction, donated over $13,000 that evening. This donation sum, along with a sum provided by the Moses Family Trust, provided the necessary funds for moving the layout from Fort Worth to Jefferson.

The Museum plans to build a replica early 1900's T & P Railroad Depot on the Museum property to house the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad. It will be a simple, wooden depot-style building with board-and-batten siding and bracketed eaves, approximately 22 x 55 feet in size.

A construction contract for the new building, estimated to be $66,000, has been negotiated with a local contractor. This cost may be reduced if donations of materials and building systems are forthcoming from the building community. Construction on the depot building will begin in late January 2012. The goal of the Museum is to have the depot building completed and the model railroad operating by May 2012.

The challenge is to raise the remaining funds required to build the depot as soon as possible. To date, citizens and local organizations in Jefferson have donated over $30,000 toward the construction of the new building. The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum and the Cypress Bayou Model Train Club are seeking donations for the remaining funds required to complete the construction of the new home for the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad. The Museum is a non-profit tax exempt entity under section 501(c) (3) IRC. All donations will be used exclusively to construct the new depot building. Donors of $50 or more will be permanently recognized on a plaque at the Museum.

Make checks payable to:
Jefferson Historical Society and Museum Train Account
Send to:
Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, 223 West Austin Street, Jefferson, Texas 75657

On the 19th and 20th of May 2012, the first annual Jefferson Train Days event will occur. One Boarding Pass will admit visitors to the Grand Opening of the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout, a ride on a narrow gauge steam train, a tour of Jay Gould's private car and admission to a train show of several modular model railroad layouts. Go to www.jeffersonrailway.com, click on "Jefferson Train Days."

Elf Story-11'

By Don Kimmell, Up Elf

Wow, the eleventh year for the Holiday Express, who would have thought that it has gotten as big as it has! We were reminiscing about how it was the first couple of years, just 5 cars, maybe 6 to 8 stops, early nights, daytime travel, just bagging for maybe 30 minutes every other day….things sure do change.

This year there would be no major changes to any of the various model train displays, do you know, we now have 3 different scales represented-"O" scale in the reindeer stable car, an "HO" under the floor in the green caboose and a "G" scale on the sleigh flat car! My how things have gotten bigger, and a bit more TLC required.

The major decision for this elf was what leg to ride….the "southwest" or the "southeast" or the "northern" leg. After consulting with Mrs. Elf, the Head Elf and a couple elves who have a bit more seniority than me, the choice was made…."go North"! Timing was right as to the employment bit, so off I go.

By this year I had learned to take some really serious winter clothes, not the "southern" type, but REAL cold weather stuff! Catalogues…you can find almost anything in the right ones…like real wool sweaters to name a few. Foot warmers are a must! Try standing on ballast for 4 to 5 hours a night, no fun without some foot warmers! Packing is always an adventure in itself…you ever try to put 20 days worth of clothing in 2 to 3 bags, keeping in mind that: YOU have to carry those bags to the train, YOU then lift those bags onto the train and finally, YOU manhandle same bags down the "hallways" to your compartment and thru the door! Are we having fun yet?

Well, after 10 seasons of elfin, one does become somewhat experienced on what to take and what not to take….oh, one other small point, while they do have one washer and one dryer on board, you are not very high on the list to use it, like maybe sometime around 3am, bearing in mind that water is a somewhat precious commodity. Do you know how long it takes to fill a 2,500-gallon water tank with a garden type water hose! Now there are 7 to 8 cars to fill at a time, all off of one faucet….a major undertaking, and most likely this will be done in the middle of the night! So, don't figure on too many "clean" clothes! Another joy of being an elf!

The days tend to "blend" into a routine, breakfast at 8am, then, if we are "blue flagged", it is off to bag and clean up from last night's stop-sometimes it takes most of the morning, also you get to do any repairs to the various model railroads—have you ever tried to replace couplers on a HO car, sitting on the floor of a caboose that has been "cold soaked" over night, another interesting experience, also, you don't have "your" tools- - are we having fun yet? Then you might have about an hour before it is lunchtime. This is usually when we get any "orders" for that evening's event, like "…we may start a "bit" early…" like at 3pm or whenever we get set up, whichever comes first! Of course, we will still go on till the last child has had a chance to see Santa, a couple of times it was 9pm or later, does make for a long afternoon/evening!! Next step is …"what's the weather going to be like?","…how many layers will I need tonight?". "Is it going to rain/snow/sleet?". Are we having FUN yet? Time for the show!

We sometimes end up in what might be described as literally "the other side of the tracks"! Over the years I have become very familiar with that part of town, be it Texarkana, Poteau, Heavener, Vicksburg, Slater and so on. Does make for some interesting viewing to say the least.

As usual, I was an "Up Elf" again this year. It is always fun for the most part, unless you have the irate adult that is not too happy about standing in line for an hour or so in 25 degree (think winter) weather….it is funny, the conditions never seem to bother the kids, they just can't wait to see Santa! This year the MAJOR question was …."..Do you know the Elf on a Shelf?". Well, it only took one night of that question, to ask Santa just what was that all about! Of course, the Man In Red had the answer, so one less problem. Sometimes at a number of our stops we get some "local" volunteers, and if I am really lucky, it will be someone who is dressed for the weather! Then one gets to move around a bit, you are not anchored to one spot, plus, the "locals" know some of the visitors, so that is even more fun! This year we stopped at a couple of "new" places-Poteau, OK and Joplin, MO. which is always fun. To see the children's' faces when they see the train all lit up, and find out that Santa is here, is beyond belief! As a side note, the devastation we saw coming into Joplin from their tornado this past year was frightening and very humbling! An employee of KCS, who is a Trainmaster, said he has traveled this stretch of track for over 20 years, and never seen the hospital nor the high school before, which is now in view from the track! We, here in Shreveport, have had a number of tornados over the years, but nothing that matched the devastation I witnessed there in Joplin. The folks there were very thankful that we brought the Holiday Express to town this year. Now, we were set up at a siding by the old station-which was 200 yards away, across a muddy field-and the railroad had to build a couple of ramps over the drainage ditch to access the train, but everyone had a good time, this was a 3:15pm start with a 8:45pm end. On to the next stop. Pittsburg Kansas, the site of the old shops-which are now gone.

We were told that we shouldn't see too much of a crowd this evening, what with the local college, Pittsburg State, having a big football game, so we will start early, and end early! I think someone forgot to tell the residents, because it was another 5 ½ hour evening…this is getting real old, real fast! The next town to visit was Slater, Missouri…a small farm town in the central part of the state, and it is going to be a Sunday, another "light" night, right? Guess again, word was out, and folks from the surrounding countryside came by to visit…some drove 30 miles. It seems the local radio station interrupted their local programming to announce that we were in town! FUN!

Well, that seemed how it was for the whole trip this year. We visited a number to towns that had not been visited in a couple of years, so….need I say more?

Of course we did spend the weekend before Christmas in Kansas City at Union Station, long days, like 9:30am to 7pm…..and of course, being a "big" city, we got the crowds. Plus Union Station is a very fascinating place, a whole lot of railroad history! Plus, being "stuck" in the basement, you do

find all the nooks and crannies, shortcuts, and backrooms…the joys of being an elf!

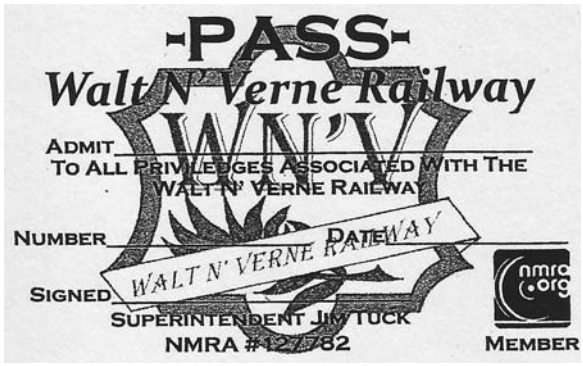
This year the Holiday Express made 27 stops in 25 days, we had …60,170 visitors-figure 40% were kids…think how many bags that is…They donated over $110,000.00 to the Salvation Army…We considered this years trip a major success, but a bit too long, left Shreveport November 24th at 8am, and "…bumped the end post" at Deramus Yards at 9:00pm on December 22nd! But it was fun, and yes I will do it again next year!

Pass Exchange

There seems to be an interest in the Lone Star Region to bring the Pass Exchange program back to life. Walter Zahn has decided to work on renewing interest in this program. If you are interested in participating please send him 2 samples of your pass and in return you will get a pass and a list of Active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes and send a pass of the quarter that will be displayed in *The Marker Lamp*.

Please help Walter get this program moving again. Send you passes to: Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

PASS of the Quarter



PASS of the month is for the Walt N Verne Railway sent in by Jim Tuck, 2829 North Fremont Blvd., Flagstaff, Arizona 86001-0712. It is printed on quality card stock and includes the NMRA logo as well as the railroad logo on the face with conditions and address printed on reverse.

Submit your PASS to Walter and you could be featured as the next PASS of the Quarter.

LSR YOUTH COMMITTEE

Bob Mangrum, Youth Chair

The stated objectives of the Youth Membership Program, as found in Article 6 of the LSR By-Laws, dated January 2009, provide for the promotion of model railroading as a hobby amongst young people, defined as 18 years old and younger. Members of the region are charged with encouraging young people and their peers to become involved in what we as members of the NMRA believe is the world's greatest hobby.

To accomplish this purpose, the LSR established a Youth Membership Program through which the LSR would sponsor a junior membership in the NMRA and LSR with the dues being paid by the Region Treasurer. Each Division Director will nominate a junior person from their division for inclusion in the Program; hence the possibility exits of having 10 young people sponsored each year as junior members of the NMRA.

Nominations can come from several sources including individuals who are members of the division, clubs located within that division and/or the Division Director. Each nominee needs a short commentary stating why that individual should be included in the Junior Membership Program. Previous year selections cannot be considered for a second year in the program. Those that are selected should be monitored during the following year to track these young people's progress as a model railroader and LSR member. The intention is to insure the new member receives some mentoring and has such a good experience within the LSR that they will continue to be an active member in the future.

The Contest Corner

By Duane Richardson, MMR

I hope you all have been working one you models and planning your animations for the special contest category. Most importantly I hope this is making you reach out to learn something new to add to your bag of tricks. The animations for the special category can be incorporated into you regular contest entries. A forklift driving by a door, a windmill turning, a brakeman waving or a engineer who moves his head to look where he's going. It's up to you. As in years past we will start taking model entries up until Friday afternoon. If you are interested in judging or learning how to judge please send me an email at duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com See you in Houston!

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting
Houston, Texas – January 14, 2012

President Bill McPherson called the Annual Board meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
Roll call
All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except for the following: Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts (proxy assigned to Secretary Treasurer Tom Browning), Al Boos, Bill Dryden, and Jim Long.
Minutes of Previous Meeting Division 3 Director Jerry Hoverson made 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 1 to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as published the Minutes of the June 12, 2011 Board of Directors meeting published in the 2011 summer issue of *The Marker Lamp*. Director-At-Large Chuck Lind seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Officers Reports
President Bill McPherson
The President's Report was submitted by email to all Board members. It mentioned the enthusiasm of the LSR members in their many different railroading activities. Membership and retention are increasing due to the outreach of many individual efforts. Because of the current difficult economic times, the BOD must continue to position the LSR so that it remains strong and vibrant.
Secretary/Treasurer Tom Browning
The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was submitted by email to the Board members and is summarized as follows. For the second quarter of the fiscal year 2011-2012 the beginning balance as of August 1, 2011 was $35,795.60, and the ending balance on October 31, 2011 was $35,549.93. This balance excludes amounts held for Division 1, Division 3, Division 4 and the Walter Zahn Donation that becomes unrestricted funds at $200.00 per year. The membership of the LSR beginning August 2011 was 1,035 and ending October 2011 was 1,046. In a special announcement, Tom Browning reported that Walter Zahn, who donated $1,000 a few years ago to be used at a rate of $200 per year to pay for contest awards, is donating another $1,000 which will extend out to the year 2019. These donations are in memory of Walter's father. The attendees at the meeting gave a generous applause to Mr. Zahn.
Directors Reports
Division 1 Director Chris Atkins reported that the Cowcatcher Division continues to have meetings every other month, alternating between the LMRA clubhouse and the Texas Western clubhouse. New members continue to be recruited at the Division meetings, LMRA train show, and the Ft. Worth train show. As it has for many years, the Cowcatcher Division will participate in the Plano train show. Andrew Winn was nominated for the Cowcatcher Youth Program representative. Later in the meeting Andrew's nomination was approved.
Division 2 Director Dick Schneider reported that the Bayou Division has been busy building models and having Open Houses during the Christmas season. Dick has decided not to run for re-election and indicated it is time for a rest and to bring in new blood.
Division 3 Director Jerry Hoverson reported that the Trinity River Division continues to hold very successful monthly meetings with attendance averaging 30-35. There were various fun activities such as clinics, show-and-tell, awards, and door prizes. The "White Elephant" Christmas exchange was very entertaining. The Trinity River Division has done extremely well in the Achievement Program thanks to the efforts of Larry Swigert and Mike Jobe working with region and nation folks to expedite getting the awards quickly to those earning them.
Division 4 Director Jack Merkel reported that Division 4 had meetings in September and December. These meetings include clinics, show-and-tell, social time, deal-or-duds door prizes, and layout tours. Posters promoting the NMRA/LSR are being displayed in the local hobby shops along with flyers announcing division meetings. At the Temple, Austin, and Round Rock trains shows a total of 13 new NMRA/LSR members were signed up.
Division 5 Director Dave Lamberts (who is on his honeymoon) did not submit a report.
Division 6 Tom Crosthwait reported that Pete Stabe, a TTM Volunteer, fell from a train he was conducting and died. SAMRA will hold its 36th Annual Jamboree the last weekend in January 2012. Fred Bock hosted clinics for weathering cars at Hobby Town.
Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported that membership is holding steady at 28-32. NMRA/LSR tables at the local train shows have generated interest but no new recruits. Don Kimmell has held Boy Scout merit badge orientations in Monroe, Minden and Frierson, LA. Additionally, Don conducted clinics at the local Shriner's Hospital and set up the Ark-La-Tex Modular Club layout. He continues to attract many to railroading by serving as an elf on the Kansas City Southern Holiday Trains.
Division 8 Director Ray Byer did not submit a report.
Director-At-Large Duane Richardson did not submit a report.
Director-At-Large Chuck Lind did not submit a report.
Director-At-Large Tracy Mitchell did not submit a report.
Department Reports
Achievement Chair Al Boos reported the following achievement certificates and awards were awarded during the past year: MMR – Joe E. Batson; Volunteer – Joe E. Batson; Cars – Joe E. Batson; Official –Chuck Lind, MMR & Tom Crosthwait; Golden Spike – Marc LaChey, Jeffery Liedl, Leonard Siementel, David Griffity, Harold Huisinga, & Don Winn.
Convention Chair Bill McPherson distributed updated copies of his report showing the attendance, income, expenses, and profit/loss comparisons for the LSR conventions from 2001 through 2011. From this data in this report it can be determined why some conventions are successful, not only from the events offered, but also from the attendance and financial standpoints. The future convention schedule is Houston - 2012, Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex - 2013, and either San Antonio or possibly a wild-card location in 2014.
Dispatcher Matthew Latham reported that the available stock of Company Store materials has now reached $291.50 and not much remains.
Nominating Chair Steve Barkley reported that he had assembled a slate of candidates for the upcoming election. The ballots will be in the next issue of *The Marker Lamp* and are to be returned to Steve by March 15. The candidates are:
Directors-At-Large – Art Houston, Tracy Mitchell MMR, Duane Richardson MMR and Fred Bock MMR
Division 2 – Rod Fredericks
Division 4 – Jack Merkel
Division 6 – Thomas Crosthwait
Division 8 – Leslie Bodak
Publications Chair Chuck Lind reported that four *The Marker Lamp* were produced this past year. One issue was late due to computer problems. Two issues were only 16 pages due to lack of material submitted. Chuck reminded all that anyone working on their Author Certificate leading to MMR could get published in *The Marker Lamp*.
Website Chair Duane Richardson did not submitted a report
Parliamentarian Bob Mangrum had nothing to report.
Youth Chair Bob Mangrum reported that he continues to send bi-weekly reminders to each member of the Board to consider encouraging them to find eligible and deserving young people to be nominated as their division representative.
Division 1 Youth Nominee – Andrew Winn of Ft. Worth
Division 8 Youth Nominee – Lindsey Bodak of Houston
Membership Co-Chairs Larry Swigert and Mike Jobe reported they had worked very hard during the calendar year to promote the NMRA/LSR. The LSR membership reached a new high of 1,059 members in November 2011. Larry and Mike have attended many division meetings and train shows, and recruited many new members. The Cowcatcher Round Up periodical published a full page about the recruitment activities. The Membership report also reminded us of the importance of membership retention.
Events Chair Bill Dryden reported that he was gaining ground on getting information on upcoming events and asks that the notices come to him in a timely manner so that *The Marker Lamp* deadline is not missed.

Photography Chair Dave Lamberts did not submit a report.
Education Chair Tracy Mitchell reported the following activities: Division 4 - Clinics: David Peterson – *An Introduction to Trainz Software*, David & Sammy Nicastro –*17 Ways Not to Build a Signal and One Pretty Good Way to Do It*. Division 6 – SAMRA hosted Scouts for quarterly clinic for Railroading merit badge. Division 8 – Four clinics: *Hand laying track*, *Making Trees Part 1 and 2* by Jim Lemmond, *Decals* by Tracy Mitchell. San Jacinto Model RR Club monthly meetings; seven clinics conducted: *Wire Sizes for Modeling* - Jim Hinds, *Sawmill Operations*- Chuck Lind, *Design a RR for Operation* - Bob Folz, *UP operations* - UP Yardmaster, Brenda Bob, *TNO Lockwood Extension* - Greg Johnson, *Rolling Stock Certificate Certification Tune Up*- Mark Couvillion and *TNO Vintage Slides* - Joe Dale Morris.

OLD BUSINESS

The appointment of Steven Barkley from Beaumont as the chairman of the Nominations Committee was announced by Bill McPherson.

The Division 8 Youth Program nominee, Lindsay Bodak, was introduced. She is the daughter of Leslie Bodak who is the candidate for the Division 8 Director position. Her father Mike is the vice-president of Division 8. The 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 2 to ratify the nomination of Lindsay was made by Tom Browning and seconded by Ray Byer. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill McPherson commented that the wide variety of activities and promotions taking place throughout the LSR had resulted in recruiting record numbers of new members and retaining present members. The LSR reached a new high membership of 1,059 in November. World-wide, the NMRA membership is stabilized at about 19,200.

The impact of changing economic conditions on the LSR conventions was discussed by Bill McPherson. He pointed out that the annual conventions are the primary regional activity of the Lone Star Region and are the primary source of income for the region. The other major income sources are the NMRA remittance of $2.00 per member paid back to the Region and interest from the CD investments. Unfortunately, the CD interest has been very low recently. In his "LSR Income, Expenses and Net Worth Report" McPherson showed the present income, expenses, and projections of the LSR's financial situation for the next 5 years. The LSR net worth has declined 13% more than anticipated in the past year.

McPherson pointed out the important new information in his updated "Comparison of Attendance, Income, Expenses and Profit/Loss Report" which provides very extensive financial, registration, and activity data about each LSR convention from 2001 to 2011. The new-format "Convention Registration Report" and "Convention Financial Report" for the 2011 CapRock Express Lubbock convention were reviewed in depth. These reports illustrate the impact and importance of the conventions to the overall financial well-being of the LSR.

Factors, such as pitfall contractual provisions in some hotel contracts, which have negatively impacted the financial or attendance results of several conventions, were discussed at length. Many attendees expressed their opinions. Examples from the actual contracts were projected on the screen. The three little words "applicable service charges" have been devastating to the financial success of several conventions.

Several pre-submitted motions concerning the LSR By-Laws were presented for consideration. The first 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 3, presented by Tom Browning and seconded by Dick Schneider, proposed to set the LSR Convention Fund level at $9,500. During the discussion phase, the amount was set at $10,000. The motion was passed.

The first part of the next 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 4, presented by Tom Browning and seconded by Jerry Hoverson, dealt with the responsibilities of the Secretary Treasurer as stated in the LSR By-Laws. These responsibilities are currently scattered in several sections of the By-Laws. Also, external changes in the LSR bank arrangements were necessary when the previous bank went out of business. Thus the first part of this motion was to get all applicable parts of the Treasurer's responsibilities updated and into one section of the By-Laws.

The second part of this 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 4 dealt with the LSR annual conventions. The motion proposed continuation of the local Host Group's planning, organizing, and management of its convention while providing more adequate protection of the financial, other interests, and liabilities of the LSR and its officers and directors.

During the Board meeting many aspects of conventions were discussed extensively, such as: By-Law changes, different types of conventions and venues, separate meeting and hotel facilities, on-site and outside meal catering, financial situations and controls, hotel contracts, contract review committees, prototype tours, and layout tours. As a result of all these discussions about conventions, it was decided to form a committee to analyze various approaches and provide recommendations at the June 10, 2012 Board meeting. Chuck Lind will chair this committee. Attorney Steve Barkley and other board members who have contract preparation, negotiation, and administrative experience and those with convention leadership experience will serve on this committee.

A new 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 5 was made by Chuck Lind to table 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 4 until the June 10, 2012 BOD meeting. The motion was seconded by Tracy Mitchell and passed.
Another updating of the By-Laws was proposed by 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 6 to remove outdated annual reporting requirements by the LSR president to the NMRA Secretary and others. The reorganization of the NMRA has resulted in these reports not being required. This motion was made by Tom Browning, seconded by Ray Byer, and passed.
The final Old Business item was the update report by Matt Latham and Duane Richardson on more effective and economical mass email communications. Matt provided the links and other information for this.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Barnett, Chairman of the 2012 Gulf Coast Limited convention in Houston, provided a very comprehensive review of the numerous activities for the convention. Both the registration and the hotel fees are very good. The attendees were thrilled by the attendance of Virginia Freitag who presented details about the extensive Non-Rail convention activities.

Marc LaChey, Chairman of the 2013 convention in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, discussed the hotel and events for this convention. This will be sponsored jointly by Divisions 1 and 3. Marc continued to negotiate to where he obtained a very favorable contract with the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving. This is particularly significant since the convention is two years away and costs are increasing so much in the Metroplex. The convention dates of May 29 through June 2, 2013 produced some comments. Marc had investigated the closing school dates for many districts in Texas and tried to select the period with the least conflicts. Steve Barkley advised that the Sheraton Grand Hotel might want confirmation that the LSR BOD has approved the contract. Therefore, Tom Browning made 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 7 to accept the contract. Jerry Hoverson seconded the motion. It passed with one dissenting vote.

Chuck Lind mentioned that the national Narrow Gauge Convention would take place in Houston in 2015. He suggested that the LSR convention should not be held in Houston that same year but instead go to a wild card location. The normal convention rotation would be to San Antonio in 2014 and then to Houston in 2015.

The approval of Andrew Winn as the Division 1 Youth Program nominee was proposed by Tom Browning with 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 8 and seconded by Ray Byer.
The motion passed.

Jim Lemmond announced that the updated website for the Houston convention was now available and offers on-line registration and payment and details about the convention. It will be updated frequently.

To adjourn the Board of Directors meeting, 2012-01-14 LSR BOD Motion 9 was made by Tom Browning, seconded by Jerry Schoenberg, and passed. The meeting was adjourned by Bill McPherson at 12:03 p.m.

Submitted by Tom Browning and Bill McPherson

Up the Tracks Events Calendar for the LSR

January 2012

By Bill Dryden

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at **bdr149@airmail.net**.

Lone Star Region 61st Annual Convention (2012)
The Lone Star Region NMRA 61th Annual Convention will be held in Houston, June 6–10, 2012. Check the LSR website.
Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Garland
Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX. Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson at jhoverson@tx.rr.com or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website.

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers, Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. Second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs - Irving
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

February
18th San Jacinto Model Railroad Club - The Greater Houston Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Adults $6, Ages 12–18 $1, Children under 12 Free with adult ticket ($12 maximum per family). Stafford Center, 10505 Cash Road at Murphy Road (US 59 @ Beltway 8). A list of open area homes will also be given at the show for layout tours. For more information: http://sanjac.leoslair.com/resources/2012-Public-Flyer.pdf.

March
3rd – 4th 16th Annual J.E.T.T.S. Model Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under Free. Exhibit Building. Longview Fairgrounds, off Hwy 31 on Jaycee Drive. Longview, TX. For more information contact Billy Pyle at (903) 522-1281.

17th – 18th New Braunfels Museum Railroad Jamboree. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6, Ages 5-17 $2. New Braunfels Civic Center, 380 S. Seguin Ave. New Braunfels, TX. For more information contact Jerry Garteiser at JerryG@gvtc.com.

April
28th – 29th Cotton Belt Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $6, Children 12 and under Free. Harvey Convention Center, 2000 West Front St., Tyler, TX. For more information call (903) 571-0220 or (903) 316-9319.

June
6th – 12th Gulf Coast Limited Lone Star Region/NMRA 61st Annual Convention. Houston, TX. For more information http://www.lonestarregion.com/.

July
July 29th – August 4th NMRA National Convention – Grand Rails 2012. Grand Rapids, MI. For more information: http://www.gr2012.org/

October
13th – 14th 30th LMRA Model Train Show. Fort Worth

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event - Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the* Marker Lamp *is the middle of the following month.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Tom Browning

For the Second Fiscal Quarter of 2011/2012

Beginning Balance 08/01/2011	
LSR Checking Account	$238.57
Vanguard CD Funds**	$25,172.33
Vanguard Convention Fund	$10,384.70
Total LSR Net Worth	**$35,795.60**

Not included in Total LSR Net Worth

Funds Held For Division 1	*$3,400.50*
Funds Held For Division 3	*$1,450.89*
Funds Held For Division 4	*$3,954.93*
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	*$600.00**

LSR Proceeds

Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$1.51
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$0.60
NMRA Rebate	$993.00
Total Proceeds	**$995.11**

LSR Disbursements

Youth Membership Program	$28.00
Marker Lamp Printing & Mailing	$1,212.78
Total Disbursements	**$1,240.78**

Net Proceeds/ Disbursements	**$-245.67**

Ending Balance 10/31/2011

LSR Checking Accounts Total	$1,203.57
Vanguard CD Fund**	$23,961.06
Vanguard Convention Fund	$10,385.30
Total LSR Net Worth	**$35,549.93**

Not included in Total LSR Net Worth

Funds Held For Division 1	*$3,400.50*
Funds Held For Division 3	*$1,450.89*
Funds Held For Division 4	*$3,954.93*
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	*$600.00**

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year to comply with terms of donation.

** Paid out $1212.78 for Marker Lamp

At the beginning of August 2011 the membership was 1,035 and at the end of October 2011 the membership was 1,046. Please welcome our new members listed below:

August 2011

Allen Boger, Argyle, TX – 1
Damond Harkins, Fort Worth, TX – 1
Lee Martin, Alvarado, TX – 1
Lee Sykes, Slidell, TX – 2
James DeBruin, Dallas, TX – 3
Charles Ely, Horseshoe Bay, TX – 4
Pam Deibert, Marion, TX – 6
Alan Delafield, San Antonio, TX – 6
Hal Cardiff, Katy, TX - 8

September 2011

Ray Cozza, Denton, TX -1
William Viglas, Saginaw, TX – 1
Albert Wetterstroem, McKinney, TX – 3
Frank Glatzl, Cedar Park, TX – 4
Kenneth Martin, Lexington, TX – 4
Justin Hodge, Schertz, TX - 6

October 2011

Howard Way, Plano, TX – 3
David Latinovich, Plano, TX – 3
Michael Ellis, Palestine, TX – 3
Paul Jones, Temple, TX – 4
Richard Havermann, McAllen, TX – 6
John Whitehurst, Longview, TX – 7
Douglas Weiskopf, Houston, TX – 8
Shawn Sanders, Humble, TX – 8
Timothy Nix, Houston, TX – 8
Michael Gibson, Houston, TX – 8

June 6-10, 2012

Another of the fine Houston area layouts that will be open. Make your plans now to attend the Guld Coast Limited, don't be disappointed.

Company Store Inventory as of January 15, 2012

All cars sold out.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches $5.00 each (Only LSR Life – 35 avail.)
Auto/Window Region Decal $ .50 (1 avail.)
N Scale (13 avail.) Nevadun Decals $2.00 per sheet
HO Scale (8 avail.) & N Scale (22 avail.) Daw Cha Southern Decals $3.00 per sheet

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Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins
Email: chris@railroadermodelers.com
Phone: 214-222-1285
Web:http://cowcatcherdivision.com

Hi Gang. Happy 2012!

As I write this, I am busy preparing for what I hope will be another successful Dallas Area Train Show in Plano. Again this year, Matt Latham and myself will be presenting clinics on behalf of Division 1. Mike Jobe, Jerry Hoverson and Duane Richardson will be representing Division 3. We hope to pick up another batch of new members at the LSR booth. Thanks for everyone who took the time to stop by and help.

In October the Division set up at the LMRA train show in Ft. Worth along with LSR Membership Chair Larry Swigart. We had an extremely successful show, signing on nine new members. In November, we took part in the Ft. Worth Holiday Train Show. Turnout was up substantially. The Saturday turnout was more than all of last year's show. We were able to add four new members at the Ft. Worth show.

Also in November, we had our regular division meeting. I presented a clinic on beginning DCC. We haven't locked down the date of our next meeting, but the speaker will be Clarence Zink who will present a clinic on Mining. Clarence is a geologist and an expert in many kinds of mining. Try to bring a mining related model for the popular vote contest.

I'm happy to announce that Andrew Winn was approved by the board as the 2012 division 1 youth sponsor. Andrew and his dad Don are members of the Denton Area Model Railroad Club and a very have been enjoying the hobby together for several years. His dad writes "Andrew started with a Brio set when he was just a toddler. We started going to local train shows and purchased one of the basic snap-track sets when he was 8. He showed a lot of interest in it, so we adopted a corner module in the Denton Area Model Railroad Club. At his suggestion, we created a Boy Scout camp on it, with Andrew helping in a number of areas. We are also building up a home HO layout, where his main interest is in soldering. Andrew completed the Railroading Merit Badge last year. We have attended the past 2 national NMRA conventions. At the DFW shows, he gets more mileage on his trains than any other club member."

I know you will all congratulate Andrew on being chosen as this year's youth and encourage his growth in our hobby.

Marc LaChey has started organizing a committee for the 2013 LSR convention that will be held in Irving. I'm sure he can use all the help he can get, so please drop Marc or me an email and we can talk about what kind of jobs there are. This is a great opportunity to get volunteer hours for your MMR certificate.

If you have any questions, contact me by email at chris@theatkinsfamily.com or call me at 214-222-1285. You can also find out more by checking out the Division 1 website at http://cowcatcherdivision.com.

I hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider
Email: trains42@aol.com
Phone: 337-364-6931

The Bayou Division has been in hiatus this last quarter. All clubs and individuals have been busy modeling and having "Open Houses" during this Christmas season.

Lou Schultz, Art Houston, the MidSouth, the Greater Baton Rouge, and the Crescent City Model Railroad Clubs all had Christmas operations during the holidays. The Season was enjoyed by all.

I have decided to retire from this position of Director, Bayou Division II. Everything ages and I am no exception. Turnover brings in new ideas and viewpoints and that is always welcome by our board and the LSR Region. We have two major candidates running for LSR Board positions effecting Division II, Art Houston and Rod Fredericks. Art is running for Director-at-large and Rod is running unopposed for Director-Division II. Both are "homegrown" and are highly active model railroaders with lots of ideas and commitment to NMRA and LSR. Check them both out and ***be sure to vote.***

Remember though, "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – "Let the good times roll!" Lou Shultz, a good friend and fine model railroader mentioned that I should amend my closing to, "Let the good trains roll". Unfortunately my French is very limited and when I asked some French speakers how to say this, I got several different versions. Soo, until I get the "right one" I will continue with the "good times".

Trinity River Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR
Email: jhoverson@tx.rr.com
Phone: 972-540-5315

Well, the holidays are over (hope Santa was good to you) and the weather is limiting outside activities so I hope you are busy at work on a train project! I know I have been with train shows coming up, division meetings to prepare for and the Houston convention just around the corner there's little time to waste.

Speaking of the Houston convention, the "Gulf Coast Limited", I want to encourage all of you to make the short trek southward in June. The Houston guys ALWAYS put on a fantastic convention with lots and lots of train stuff to do and see. Just check out the rest of the Marker Lamp and register early!

The Trinity River Division has been busy as usual with our monthly meetings. Attendance is normally 30 to 40 folks and we are starting to really take off on the achievement program thanks in large part to Larry Swigert who has been spearheading the effort. We've had a good number of merit awards, Golden Spikes, and AP Certificates presented.

October and November meetings were devoted to scratch building a Thrall flatcar out of styrene based on the meriting car that Tom Stocks did. Finishing touches have been sent out to everyone as homework and we are planning on having the cars brought in for show and tell. By the way people were scratch building these all the way from N scale to G scale.

In December, Duane Richardson presented a clinic on modeling snow (good timing don't you think?). We also had a "white elephant" gift exchange that was loads of fun.

So come on out and join us! We meet at the North branch of the Garland Library located at 3845 N. Garland. We still meet on the third Saturday of every month, doors open at 10:00 and we get started as soon as we can get the room setup. Keep watching for the email reminders I send out with the upcoming agenda a week or two prior to the meeting. **If you are not getting this email notification** I don't have your current email address. Please **send your information to me** at jhoverson@tx.rr.com so I can include you and you can join us for all the fun!

Take care all and keep "working on the railroad" but most of all get involved with the division and have some railroading FUN!

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Jack Merkel
Email: ElmerMerk@aol.com
Phone: 512-355-3289

The NMRA/LSR was represented at the Great Train Expo in Austin where we signed up five new members: Rosalie Kelley, John Bennett, Andy Hines, Mark Schreiber, and Bob McKelvey. We were again present at the Austin Model Railroad Jamboree in Round Rock and signed up four new members: Colin Williams, Stephen Neill, Wilburn Mott, and Bill Crisp. The Round Rock show also had a layout tour with 20 layouts open. We have added a banner (NMRA – Helping YOU get more out of YOUR hobby) to our booth.

We had a Division meeting on Dec 3 at the Round Rock Library. David and Sammy Nicastro presented a clinic titled "17 ways not to build a signal and one pretty good way to do it". This clinic described all the different trials David went through to build a signal that worked best on his railroad. We had our show and tell session with several items shown. After the social time, the winners of the Kings Hobby Shop gift certificates were picked during the Deal or Duds session. We then toured David's D&RGW Moffat route with its magnificent Rocky Mountain scenery.

We have added a Beginner's Corner Poster to our division meetings. This poster describes how to design, build and operate a model railroad.

Our next Division meeting will be on Saturday March 10 at the Round Rock Library beginning at 10:15 am. The library is located at 216 E. Main St. in Round Rock. On I-35, exit at RR 620 (Exit 252B) and proceed East on RR 620 for a few blocks to the intersection with Main St. and continue East on Main St. for another block and half to the library. Chuck Lind will present a clinic on history and types of sawmills with prototype photos. We will have our normal show and tell table, social time and Deal or Duds and a layout tour.

We do all communications about our Division 4 meetings via email. If you are not receiving emails about our Division meetings, that means I do not have a valid email address for you. Please send you email address to Elmermerk@aol.com

In November the KCS Holiday Express was in Houston. We were visiting our family there, so we took our children and grandchildren to visit the train. We all had a great time. We missed Don Kimmell because he was not on this leg of the trip.

On the operating front, David Nicastro had his first operating session on his railroad and it was a great success. Operating long trains with helpers over the Rocky Mountains was a new experience for most of us.

Until next time, try an operating session. You will like it!

Division 5
by Dave Lamberts
Email: DavidWL1944@aol.com
Phone: 806-792-7244

No Report
On Honeymoon in Key West

Division 6
by Tom Crosthwait
Email: t.crosthwait@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 210-647-3261

The winter season left sorrow for model railroaders in San Antonio. Two separate incidents claimed the lives of railroading friends just before Christmas. Our sincere condolences to the families of Pete Stabe and Ms.Harry Jackson The following message from Pat Halpin with Texas Transportation Museum explains a tragic accident at the Museum on Sunday evening December 18.

To all TTM members

Pete Stabe a beloved and respected TTM Museum volunteer died at TTM last night.

Pete was working as the conductor of the train last night. He had just given the order for the train to leave the station and platform. For some reason unbeknown to us at this time he fell off the caboose at the platform.

We are not sure if it was an accident or health related at this time. A doctor and I were with Pete within seconds of this happening.

It is a tragic situation that will be with us forever. Our thoughts and prayers go to Tina and John, his wife and son. We will keep you informed of pending arrangements.
Pat Halpin
Texas Transportation Museum Chairman

Harry Jackson of SANTRAK, 100% NMRA club, fell in her bathroom during Christmas weekend and hit her head. She was pronounced dead at the scene by EMS attendants.

SAMRA will have hosted their 36th Annual Jamboree the last weekend of January. This continues to be a well attended model railroad show for San Antonio. With just a couple of weeks to go there are very few vendor tables remaining of a total of 250 table available.

Leading up to Christmas weekend Fred Bock hosted clinics for weathering cars at Hobby Town.

I hope that your holidays were productive and joyous.

Division 7
by Don Kimmell
Email: elf4kcs@mac.com
Phone: 318-798-7718

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please do not forget the upcoming Longview Train Show, they have returned to the early March dates, March 3rd & 4th, at the Longview Fair Grounds. While this is not as big as some shows, they usually have a fair selection of Vendors.

The sad news from East Texas is Homer's is closed. They were selling out at the end of December, and that was going to be the end. We are sorry to lose another train hobby shop.

I know everyone is looking forward to this years LSR Convention; we get to return to the awesome Houston area, be sure to attend.

The Marshall Train Show was another success, they were happy with attendance, and the Vendors did sell a bit. The news coming out of there is: New dates, October 2012, and a special appearance is scheduled to help celebrate the Depots' 125th Birthday. I am not a liberty yet to say who the "special guest" is going to be, but keep your eyes and ears open!

The Ark-La-Tex Club did 3 weeks at he Shriner's Hospital this past December, everyone had a good time and looking forward to their return in June 12'.

Have Fun and Play Trains !

Texas Gulf Division 8
by Ray Byer
Email: rayhyer@yahoo.com
Phone: 713-472-4599

Well here we go. The weather has started turning cooler, and the holidays are behind us. Well here is the end of the year report for Division 8. Last year was a good one the membership level stay around 270 a little up and down, but the same. We started out with a chili cook-off. In the middle we had a summer of clinics and a picnic. Then ended with layout tours. We added to the MMR list and we have some people so close, just fill out the paper work, right Al. We have lost some members and good friends that will be miss over time.

With the year starting again, we can look forward to the next cook-out, the next group of monthly clinics, and the next LSR convention, which will be here in Houston this June. So start building your models for the contest room, and start talking it up to your friends, to get them to come and see what it's all about. Looking forward in seeing you' all in June.

Thanks for your time.

Pike Ads

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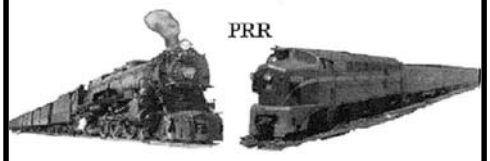
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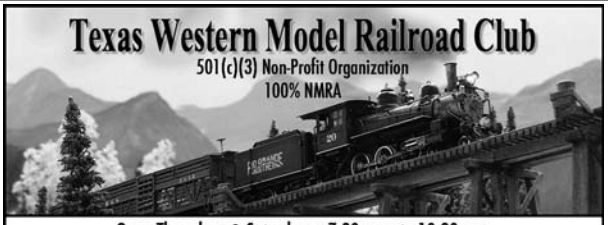

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